Tuesday, January 17, 2012

SIR ELTON TAKES ON MADGE {page 09}

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Fire. Burned out

▶ A firefighter carries equipment used to help fight a Brookline blaze yesterday.

Fighting flames, cold in Brookline

Firefighters had to battle extreme conditions yesterday as a four-alarm fire raced through an apartment building while temperatures held below the freezing mark. Dozens of residents were displaced and could only watch as flames shot from the windows of their building. Three people, including two firefighters, were taken to the hospital for injuries that were not considered life-threatening, according to fire officials. The cause was still being investigated. {page 02}

From Dewey Square to the platforms: Occupy the T

After eviction, Occupy Boston offshoot focuses on MBTA cuts, fare increases ◐ Members plan to attend first public meetings on proposals tonight {page 02}

News

Metropolitik: Washington's gossip page

The gloves have come off: New Metro feature covers the latest in electoral hijinks ◐ We roast Jon Huntsman {page 06}

Apartment hunt gets social

BU students develop site that does apartment search {page 04}

Sheen returns to sitcom life

Head of FX network says he 'likes to take risks' and he's betting on Charlie {page 12}

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Occupy Boston protesters

Occupy on track to fight T service cuts

You probably won't see any tents on your Red Line train to work (although, we can't promise that), but you can expect to see Occupy Boston protesters fighting the potential MBTA fare increases and service cuts.

The recently formed "Occupy the MBTA," an offshoot of the Dewey Square squatters, said it's their mission to "find a more sensible way of reducing the debt the MBTA has amounted."

It's one of the first major initiatives the movement has focused on since it was forcibly removed last month.

The group is rallying supporters and encouraging individuals to attend the roughly 20 public hearings on two proposals floated by T officials to cut service and raise fares. The plans call for drastic cuts, including eliminating ferries and weekend service on the Green Line E branch and Commuter Rail.

Members of the group will also be at the scheduled meetings, which start today in Newton and Worcester.

Information about the proposed slashes to service have also been widely distributed by group members through Facebook and Twitter, as they plan their next move.

STEVE ANNEAR

In the news

Wrong turn in Dorchester leads to jail

A Reading man was arrested after he led police on a chase and ended up driving the wrong way on Interstate 93 in Dorchester. Richard Saunders, 48, allegedly stole a minivan from Medford, fled from police and crashed in to four cars while driving the wrong way on the highway. There were no serious injuries.

METRO

Today's local tweet

"if you didnt want to walk around in the cold you shouldnt have gone to school in boston #growapair"

@GRANDGUILLERMO, ON THE BELOW FREEZING TEMPERATURES IN BOSTON THE LAST FEW DAYS

▶ Boston's first murder

First Hub murder of '12

DORCHESTER. A man in his 20s was fatally shot Saturday afternoon, marking the first murder in Boston this year.

The unidentified man was found shot by police inside 23 Trull St. just before 2 p.m.

No arrests were made as of yesterday.

Anyone with information can call 617-343-4470.

METRO

Patrols up after attack

JAMAICA PLAIN. Police have increased early morning patrols around Jamaica Pond after a woman walking her dog was attacked there yesterday.

The woman told police that she was walking her dog about 5 a.m. when a man walked past her and said "hello."

As soon as he passed, he grabbed her from behind and they fell to the ground. The man fled when the woman screamed and turned on her flashlight.

METRO

Four-alarm fire rages in Brookline apartment

Residents displaced after building goes up in flames Cause of fire under investigation, but blaze appears to have sparked in basement

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Firefighters from Brookline and Boston helped battle a four-alarm fire in Brookline yesterday morning.

Shortly after a four-alarm fire ripped through the Brookline apartment building where Deanna Champagne lived, she stood outside in the cold, hugging her sister.

"I woke up to the sound of an alarm and when I went outside the apartment I saw a huge thing of smoke [in the hallway]," said Champagne, 23. "I'm just so glad we got out safe."

Champagne, who lived in a basement unit at 1471 Beacon St., just a few doors away from where the fire started, was able to wake her roommate, Sofia Driscoll, and a friend who was visiting before flames engulfed the four-story building.

Brookline Fire Chief Paul Ford said two firefighters and one resident suffered minor injuries during the early morning blaze, which tore through all four floors.

Community help

The fire brought about a plentiful response from the Brookline community.

- Apartment buildings not in the evacuation zone opened their doors and lobbies to displaced residents who needed refuge from the bitterly cold temperatures.
- The MBTA also provided buses for residents to sit in and keep warm during the fire.
- A manager from the local Stop & Shop wheeled a cart full of sandwiches and water down to a community building where residents affected by the fire gathered.

Ford said all residents were evacuated and the fire was knocked down just after noon.

Neighboring buildings were also cleared out as firefighters fought to put out the flames.

Calvin Flegal, 22, moved into the building adjacent to the fire less than 24 hours prior.

"I still have some stuff in boxes," he said. Flegal wasn't sure where he was going to stay yesterday since residents weren't allowed back inside.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Dozens displaced

Residents of the Beacon Street building that caught fire were left wondering yesterday where they were going to go. Despite not immediately knowing where they were going to spend last night, residents were still thankful.

"I'm thankful we got out," said Sofia Driscoll, a resident of the building.

Cause sought

Officials are investigating what caused the blaze, but Brookline Fire Chief Paul Ford said it started on the basement level and worked its way up to the roof, where responders had to break holes in the ceiling to control the fire.

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Apartment hunting? It just got more social

While most students ventured home to spend time with their families over the holiday break, James Zar, 20, and a band of Boston University classmates slaved away for weeks, locked in a Brighton basement, creating a solution to the strenuous apartment hunting process.

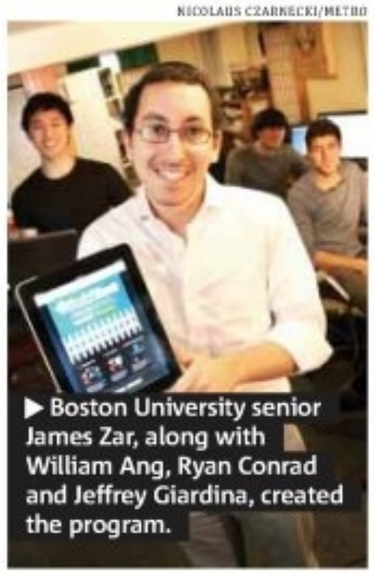
Today, Zar and his team launched SocialRent.us, an interactive alternative to cold-calling real estate agents and spending hours on Craigslist.

"We are taking the entire process, streamlining it and putting it online," said Zar.

By signing into Facebook and downloading the app, students scrambling to find that perfect place can build their ideal living situation while live-chatting with future roomies.

Users pick the location, rent limit and who they want to live with, then drag and drop apartment preferences into the interface to narrow the search.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO



▶ Boston University senior James Zar, along with William Ang, Ryan Conrad and Jeffrey Giardina, created the program.

SocialRent does the rest.

"Our team looks for your apartment, and we send all of your roommates available times to view them," said Zar.

Zar, a senior marketing major at BU, said a lack of innovation in the apartment-hunting market fueled the desire to build the program with friends.

Zar and his team plan on launching mobile apps and roommate-matching capabilities as the business grows.

Quoted

"Every agent and their uncle [has] their listings online, but the apartment-seekers are stuck spending hours a day, for weeks, surfing Craigslist. ... This is the end of it."

SOCIALRENT.US CO-FOUNDER JAMES ZAR

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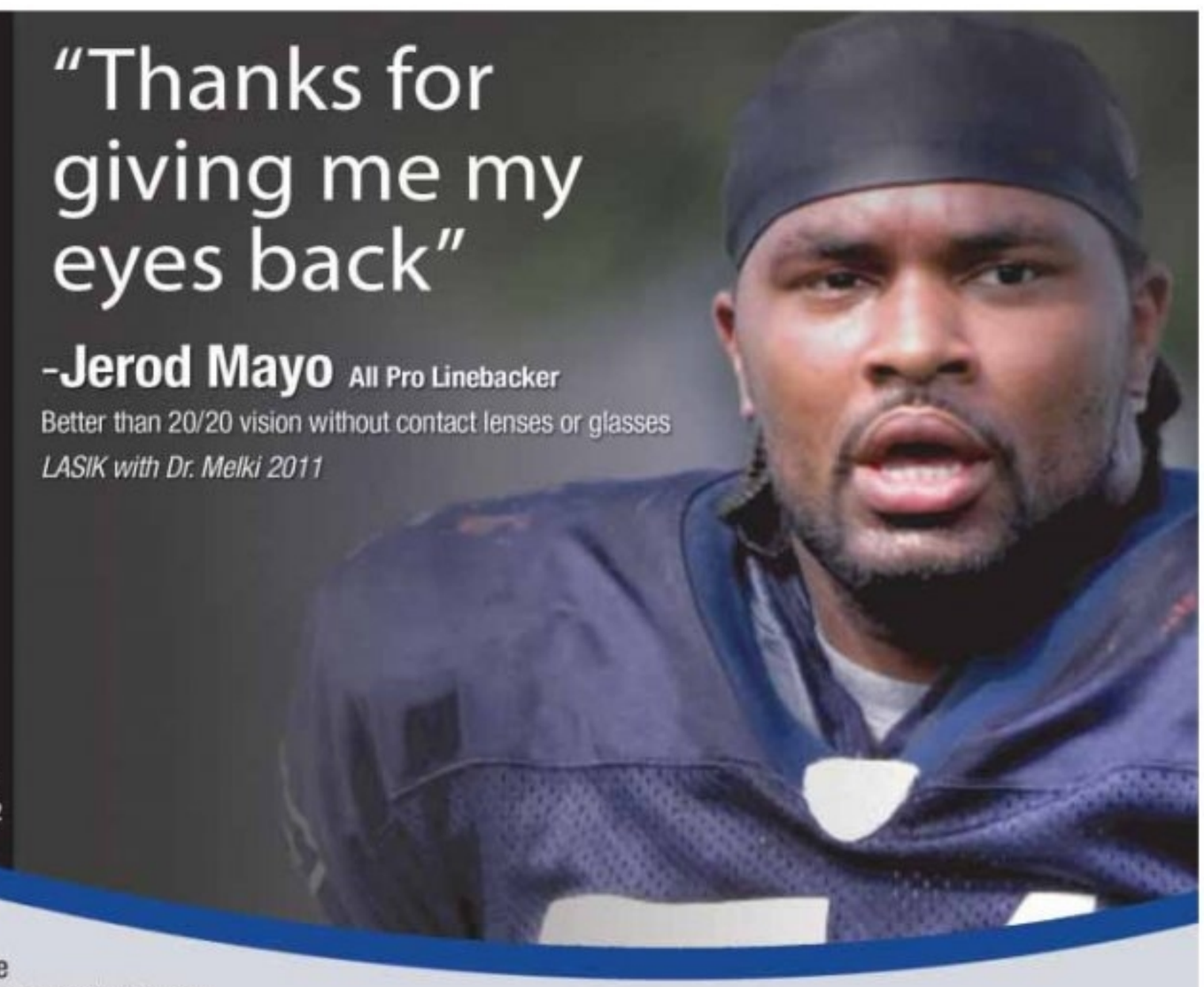

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Event. Honoring MLK

▶ State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz spoke during the 42nd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center yesterday.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Hundreds gather to remember King

Hundreds of people attended the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast yesterday to honor the civil rights leader's legacy. Hosted by Union United Methodist Church, the event's proceeds will support student scholarships and community programs. Walter Earl Fluker, the Martin Luther King, Jr. professor of ethical leadership at Boston University, gave the keynote address. The event, which has been held for 42 years, took place at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. ● METRO

Shelters filling up as temperatures plummet

With temperatures over the weekend dipping as low as the single digits, homeless shelter staff, police and other outreach workers took to the streets distributing blankets and transporting people to warm havens to escape the frigid cold.

"When the weather gets like this we do have overcapacity. At that time we add cots in our lobby area," said Barbara Trevisan, director of communications at Pine Street Inn, the city's largest homeless shelter.

More than 650 beds at the shelters' two locations were full over the last few days and more than 1,000 meals were served each day, said Trevisan. The shelter, which typically closes between breakfast and dinner, stayed open during the day so guests didn't have to endure the winter air.

In addition, two outreach vans made rounds through the city earlier than usual in the morning checking spots were homeless typically congregate to offer coats and blankets and to transport people back to the Pine Street Inn.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ A homeless man in Downtown Crossing

"When the weather gets like this we do have overcapacity. At that time we add cots in our lobby area."

BARBARA TREVISAN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AT PINE STREET INN

At Rosie's Place, a female shelter in Boston, more women were seeking warm clothes, hot meals and a place to sleep over the past several days, according to Lori LaDuke, the shelter's communications director.

T stations are popular havens for the city's most vulnerable population, but those who are homeless are usually forced to leave when the stations shut down late at night.

Transit Police transported homeless to shelters throughout the city last weekend, said Lydia Rivera, a T spokeswoman.

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Metropolitik: DC gossip gone wild

Welcome to Metropolitik, a new Metro feature designed to bring you, our busy reader, the most up-to-date, off-the-wall election coverage that no money can buy. However, please take note: In our march toward truth and accuracy in reporting, we reserve the right to smear, besmirch, mock, uplift and ultimately destroy any public personality in the U.S. political sphere who has the misfortune of misspeaking, misstepping or any of several other pratfalls that begin with "mis." For complaints, suggestions and offers of male sexual enhancement, please e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

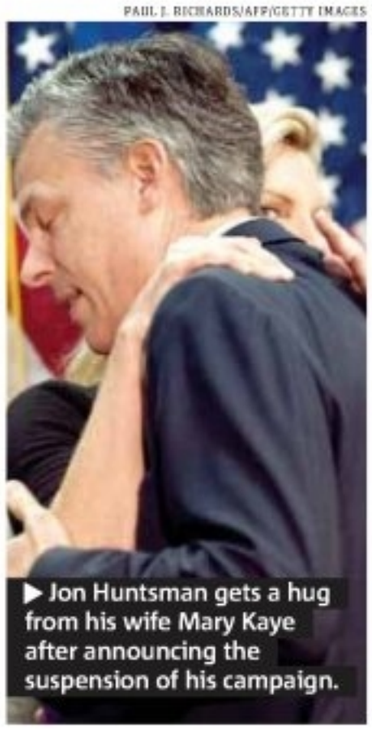
And then there were five.

Former ambassador to China and **Mitt Romney** understudy **Jon Huntsman** has withdrawn his bid for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, teaching us that it takes more than a nice face and Chinese as a second language to impress the American right.

Fresh off the campaign trail, Huntsman is now perfecting his role as dutiful understudy, borrowing a move from the Mitt flip-flop playbook and promptly reversing course on his Mormon brother. Having just a week ago denounced Romney as "completely unelectable", hunter Jon has now turned around and endorsed him, describing Romney as the candidate "best equipped to defeat **Barack Obama**."

Curious. Does Huntsman mean "defeat" as in "on the field of battle?" How else to explain how he so positively describes the electoral prospects of someone he finds totally unequipped for victory?

PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Jon Huntsman gets a hug from his wife Mary Kaye after announcing the suspension of his campaign.

No matter, it's all water under the bridge now, as the Huntsman campaign has backtracked on months of negativity, rewriting attack rhetoric and removing the scathing anti-Romney Web videos it had put together. ("When there's a question about whether you're running for the White House or running for the Waffle House, then you've got a big problem with the American people," Huntsman had said of Romney in late 2011.)

Romney is now probably hoping the Huntsman bump is somewhat more effective for him than it was for Huntsman.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Metropolitik

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GET FED

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- "Snooki endorses Trump for president" **HUFFINGTONPOST.COM**
- "Santorum Accuses Rival's Group Of 'Smear Campaign'" **HUFFINGTONPOST.COM**
- "Fox News: 'You Can Pee on Me All You Want, Don't Shoot Me'" **POLITICUSUSA.COM**
- "Perry on Huntsman dropout: I'll miss the Jon girls" **POLITICO.COM**
- "Jon Huntsman's Campaign Killed By Terminal Dullness" **THE DAILY BEAST**
- "Scott Brown And Elizabeth Warren To Talk Third-Party Ad Detente" **TPM.COM**

He said, we said

"If Mitt Romney really believes 'corporations are people, my friend', then Mitt Romney is a serial killer."

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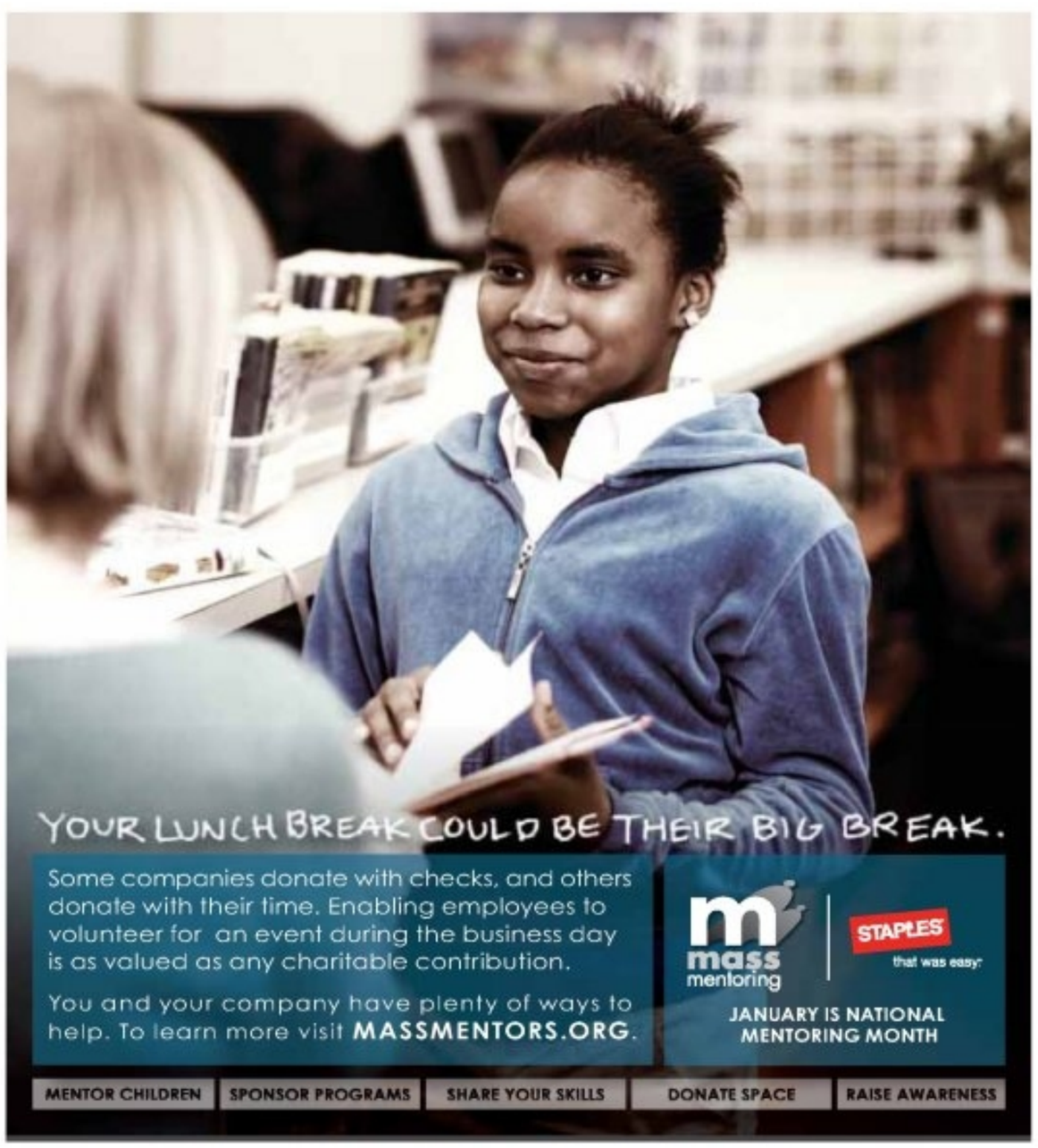
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News in brief

Iranian ban for 'decadent' Barbie

TERHAN. Irans morality police are cracking down on the sale of Barbie dolls to protect the public from what they see as pernicious Western culture eroding Islamic values, shopkeepers said yesterday.

As the West imposes the toughest ever sanctions on Iran and tensions rise over its nuclear program, inside the country the Barbie ban is part of what the government calls a "soft war" against decadent cultural influences. **REUTERS**

Wikipedia to shut down in protest

NEW YORK. Wikipedia, the popular community-edited online encyclopedia, will black out its English-language site for 24 hours to seek support against proposed U.S. anti-piracy legislation that Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales said threatens the future of the Internet.

The information will urge Wikipedia readers to contact their local congressman to vote against the bills. Other, smaller sites leading the campaign include Reddit.com and Cheezeburger. **REUTERS**

Hackers target Israel bank, airline

JERUSALEM. Hackers disrupted online access to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, El Al Airlines and three banks yesterday in what the country's government described as a cyber-offensive against Israel. **REUTERS**

Still searching for 29 as ship shifts

LAURA LEZZA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A gash can be seen in the hull of the cruise ship.

A stricken Italian cruise liner shifted on its rocky resting place yesterday as worsening weather disrupted an increasingly despairing hunt for survivors. Meanwhile, authorities raised their estimate of the number missing to 29 people.

As the Costa Concordia's owners blamed their captain for veering shoreward on Friday in a bravura "salute" to residents of a Tuscan island, the giant ship slid a little, threatening to plunge its whole gigantic carcass and 2,300 tons of fuel below the Mediterranean waters of the surrounding nature reserve.

The slippage forced rescuers to briefly suspend their efforts to find anyone still alive after three days in the capsized hull, resting on a jagged slope outside the picturesque harbor on the island of Giglio. Six bodies have been found. Most of the 4,200 passengers and crew survived, despite hours of chaos.

An Italian coastguard official said the number of people missing had been revised up to 29 — 25 passengers and four members of staff — from 16, showing how much uncertainty still surrounded the disaster.

Investigators say the ship was far too close to the shore. The captain, who the ship's owners said carried out the rash maneuver to "make a bow" to people on the island, has been arrested. The skipper denies charges of manslaughter. **REUTERS**

$90M

Amount Carnival expects to lose as a result of the boat being out of commission for the rest of the year.

Other details

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK. Italy's environment minister raised the prospect of an environmental disaster if the 2,300 metric tons of fuel on the half-submerged cruise ship leaks. The ship's fuel tanks were full, having just left the port of Civitavecchia, north of Rome, for a week-long Mediterranean cruise. The area where the ship capsized, off the island of Giglio, is a natural maritime park noted for its pristine waters, varied marine life and coral. It is known as an excellent diving site.

AT FAULT. Over-reliance on electronic navigation systems and a failure of judgment by the captain are seen as possible reasons for the crash, maritime specialists say.

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

▶ Walsh and Grammer

Kelsey Grammer: Expecting twins

Kelsey Grammer knows how to move on from his ex-wife, "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" star **Camille Grammer**. After winning the Golden Globe award for Best Actor in a Drama Series, the 56-year-old star had another announcement to make: He and wife **Kayte Walsh**, 30, are expecting twins, he revealed to reporters backstage.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting these new arrivals," says Grammer, who has four children from previous marriages. "Fatherhood's always different, based upon the character that comes into your life. They arrive and tell you what you have to do."

Madonna and Elton John: The feud

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

The Material Girl vs. The Rocket Man

Elton John and **Madonna** are in the middle of a huge feud — and honestly, I haven't seen two queens go at it this hard since "RuPaul's Drag Race."

It started Sunday night at the Golden Globes, when both of the icons were nominated against one another in the category of Best Original Song. Madonna was nominated for "Masterpiece" in "W.E." while Elton was tapped for "Hello Hello" from "Gnomeo & Juliet."

When asked by **Carson Daly** on the red carpet about the chances of Madonna winning, EJ quipped: "Madonna doesn't have a f—ing chance."

Then, when Madonna actually won, Elton's partner, **David Furnish**, went onto Facebook to vent his frustration. "Madonna. Best song???? F—off!!!" Not satisfied, he continued his rant: "Madonna winning Best Original Song truly shows how these awards have nothing to do with merit. Her acceptance speech was embarrassing in its narcissism," he wrote.

Madonna won't fight dirty though, and backstage she was the definition of polite.

"I hope he speaks to me for the next couple of years," she said about John. "He's been known to get mad at me so I don't know. He's brilliant and I adore him so he'll win another award. I don't feel bad!"

Way to take the high road, Madge. You could have easily just pointed out that the man known for such classics as "Candle in the Wind" and "Rocket Man" was this year hoping to win an award for a movie called "Gnomeo & Juliet."

Talking points

Brand doesn't play it coy

If you want to know how **Russell Brand** is handling his split from **Katy Perry**, you'll just have to come out and say it. Brand played coy when, during a press conference for his new TV series "Strangely Uplifting," a reporter simply asked how he was doing, according to Hollyscoop. "I'm quite well, thank you," Brand said. "Are you asking because of recent events? Well, I suppose what you're doing is you're making the mistake of seeing time as linear." While Brand tried to avoid discussing his personal life, he does admit it will likely play into his new show. "I think there will be inevitable biographical elements because you can't speak from anyone's perspective but your own," he said.

Wilde and Sudeikis make it official

▶ Wilde and Sudeikis in December

Olivia Wilde and "Saturday Night Live" star **Jason Sudeikis** went public with their romance over the weekend after months of quietly dating, adorably locking lips while out for a stroll in New York City's West Village, according to Us Weekly. Sudeikis split from **January Jones** last year after six months of dating, while Wilde's divorce from **Tao Ruspoli** was finalized in October.

Locklear: 'Out of control'?

While reps say she's doing fine, **Heather Locklear**'s recent hospitalization was reportedly her family's idea because the actress was "out of control" on drugs and alcohol, according to Entertainment Tonight. "Heather became a different person on drugs," a source says, adding that Locklear may be heading to rehab. Locklear was rushed to the emergency room after ingesting a dangerous mix of alcohol and prescription pills, according to reports. Her parents have released a statement saying all is well, though: "She is in no danger, and she's going to be just fine," they say.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Elizabeth Banks is running late, Dax Shepard is indifferent to Friday, Juliette Lewis is not enjoying apartment living and Jason Bateman has a problem with toys.

@ElizabethBanks
Traffic. Right?

@daxshepard1
The only downside of loving your job is decreased enthusiasm for TGIF.

@JulietteLewis
I am fascinated by my upstairs neighbors "activities". Like what could produce the constant creaks, elephant walking,moving of furniture etc

@batemanjason
I'm addicted to Activision's SKYLANDERS. Went to three stores yesterday - all sold out of the action figures. Had to go black market. Help.

Bateman

mystyle

Golden Globes red carpet rundown

Best-dressed

- **1. Angelina Jolie** had the perfect Atelier Versace dress, hair, makeup —and, well, date.
- **2. Charlize Theron** embraced girly glam in a blush Dior Couture gown and sparkly vintage Cartier headband. J'adore!
- **3. Salma Hayek**, in Gucci, brought some much-needed curves to the red carpet. We thank her.
- **4.** If you're going to wear black, this is the way to do it. **Rooney Mara** in Nina Ricci.
- **5.** So many starlets made us yawn by choosing dresses because of their comfort factor, but **Emma Stone** in Lanvin struck the perfect balance of effortless and beautiful in her floaty gown.
- **6.** Androgynous goddess **Tilda Swinton** looked so badass in this Haider Ackermann suit/gown.
- **7. Jessica Biel**, we know we've called your looks boring in years past, but you really shut us up last night. Congrats on knocking it out of the park in lace Elie Saab Haute Couture — and that engagement to Justin Timberlake.

Trend 1:

Plunging necklines

- Evan Rachel Wood
- Emma Stone
- Charlize Theron
- Rooney Mara

Trend 2:

Bold red lips

- Claire Danes
- Angelina Jolie
- Dianna Agron
- Mireille Enos

Trend 3:

Long sleeves

- Michelle Williams
- Jessica Biel
- Julianna Margulies
- Laura Dern

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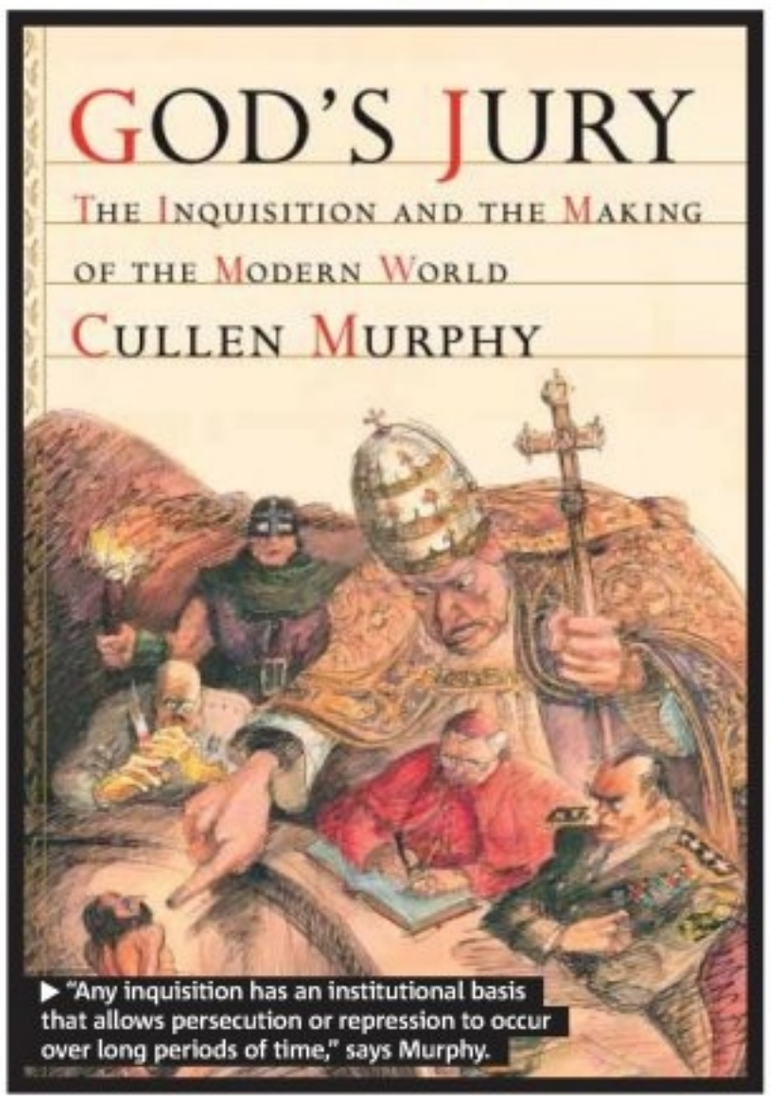


▶ "Any inquisition has an institutional basis that allows persecution or repression to occur over long periods of time," says Murphy.

Inquisition: A history

In his new readable, historical romp, author Cullen Murphy says fights against heretics are more than just dark chambers with torches In fact, The Inquisition, he says surprisingly, can seem a lot like 'The Office'

According to one of Monty Python's most famous sketches, "Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!" But according to Vanity Fair editor at large (and Medfield resident) Cullen Murphy, inquisitions should come as no surprise given the past record of human civilization.

In his new book, "God's Jury: The Inquisition and the Making of the Modern World," Murphy traces the history of inquisitions — Spanish, but also Medieval, Roman, and others — and parallels their harsh methods of persecution and interrogation with others familiar from today's headlines. "Any inquisition has an institutional basis that allows persecution or repression to occur over long periods of time. When you go back and look at the inquisitions with those things in mind, I think that you find the concept to be a lot more modern than you may have expected if you're thinking about people in dark chambers with hoods and torches."

▶ Cullen Murphy

CASPER TRINCALE

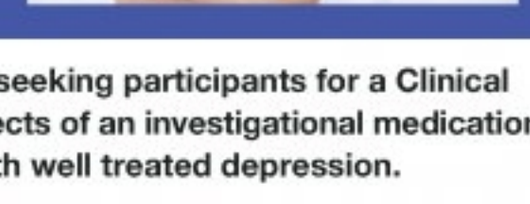
What is most surprising in Murphy's account is the almost nerdy bureaucracy that springs up repeatedly in inquisitions, which have a tendency towards exhaustive record-keeping. "Bureaucracy, on the one hand, keeps civilization running," Murphy says. "On the other hand, it drives us crazy. I think anyone who has seen 'The Office' or has been through a line at the airport will have a bit of a sense of this already."

If you go:

Cullen Murphy

Tonight, 6
Boston Athenaeum
10 Beacon St., Boston
$10-$20, 617-720-7600
www.bostonathenaeum.org

Tomorrow, 7 p.m.
Harvard COOP
1400 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-499-2000
www.harvardsquare.com



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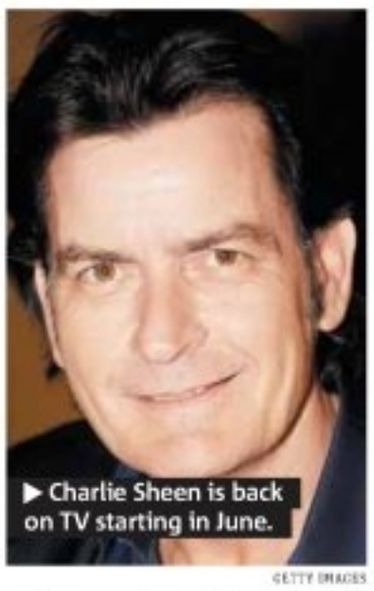
TV watch list

'Justified'

DRAMA. Deputy Marshal Raylan Givens is on the mend after last season's shootout-filled finale, but this year's bad guys aren't the kind who will offer him a smile and apple pie like his old foe Mags Bennett. The new threat is played with steely menace by Neal McDonough. **Season premiere, 10 p.m., FX**

'Remodeled'

REALITY. Modeling agent Paul Fisher envisions overhauling the industry by creating a network of small agencies called, simply, The Network. He'll visit those small-town partners in search of the next modeling superstar and teach those agencies how to offer top-of-the-line services. Of course, in the tradition of other fashion industry-focused reality series, expect fierce, fabulous attitudes when big, beautiful egos collide. **Series premiere 9 p.m., The CW** ● AMBER RAY



▶ Charlie Sheen is back on TV starting in June.

GETTY IMAGES

FX at TCA: Why the network signed Sheen

● You may not be able to get past the tiger blood, but FX's head 'believes in redemption' and is willing to give the sitcom star a second chance ● 'Anger Management' debuts in June on the network that 'likes to take risks'

America will receive its first glimpse of Charlie Sheen in a sitcom post-"Two and a Half Men" in June when his new comedy, "Anger Management," debuts on FX, the network announced at the Television Critics Association press tour in Pasadena, Calif., on Sunday. But the Charlie Sheen we'll see will be a far cry from the angry, outrageous, self-described "winning warlock" who was fired from "Men" amid scandal in 2011 — at least according to the head of FX.

In the new series, Sheen will play an anger management counselor whose antics are buffered by the women around him — his 13-year-old daughter, ex-wife and best friend/mentor. John Landgraf, president and general manager of FX Networks, called this the kind of role "Charlie ought to be playing at this point, in the sense that he is a character who has a checkered past, but is pretty self-aware, and is struggling in a very honest way with that checkered past and a desire to do more positive things in his life."

Landgraf insisted that adding the series to the FX lineup isn't a "cynical publicity stunt." He picked up the comedy — based on the 2003 movie — due to the "really excellent pitch" Sheen and the series' showrunner, Bruce Helford, presented. It was so good, in fact, the network has given the "Anger Management" team unusual creative license — no pilot was shot, nor has FX even seen a script. "We're a network that likes to take risks," Landgraf reminded reporters. It's a gamble the network is willing to take, he says, because he "believes in redemption."

"If Charlie wants to get his house in order — and that encompasses his issues with substance abuse and his relationships to his own family, and it also encompasses his desire to have greater consciousness about his public persona — and he wants to do a show in which he as an actor has more complicatedly positive relationships with women, my opinion is that [it] could be a really good thing," Landgraf said.

TCA diary

The Television Critics Association press tour, a meeting of journalists and networks to preview new and returning series, kicked off Friday, Jan. 6. Follow Amber on Twitter at @amberatmetro and visit www.metro.us/tv for more TCA updates.

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You'll certainly be seeing 'Red'

Derrah delivers the performance of a lifetime in the latest from SpeakEasy ◗ But it's little nuances that make 'Red' great ◗ You'll talk about it long after you leave

Experiencing SpeakEasy Stage Company's stellar production of "Red" feels much like looking at a great piece of art.

Initially, Thomas Derrah's tour-de-force performance gets all the credit for the immensely engaging piece. But the more you think about it (and you will), the more you appreciate the subtle nuances necessary to create this masterpiece.

There's no denying the brilliance of Derrah's portrayal of aging artist Mark Rothko. The local stage veteran's embodiment of the arrogant, irascible artist on the verge of the biggest payday of his career is so complete he's almost unrecognizable. With little more than gestures and movement, Derrah captures the artist's brilliant, tortured essence with haunting authenticity.

Given the grand scale of his performance, it's easy to overlook the equally impressive work of Karl Baker Olson as fledgling artist and Rothko assistant Ken. While Ken seems to be steamrolled by Rothko's big, angry presence, hindsight is both his and Olson's greatest ally. His one-word answer to Rothko's final question about what he sees opens up a world of possibilities for the true dynamic of their relationship.

Baker's roll-over-and-play-dead delivery may make you think his character is weak and victimized, but, like a great piece of art, if you keep looking at it, you'll be amazed at both Ken and Olson. Let your imagination transcend obvious discussions about artists spending countless hours staring at blank canvases or art as commerce.

There's a much more fascinating story waiting to be discovered underneath the pretty picture and snarky intellectual asides of "Red." Director David Gammons and a tremendously impressive creative team leave it all on the stage for you to enjoy. Don't be afraid to look at it.

NICK DUSSAULT
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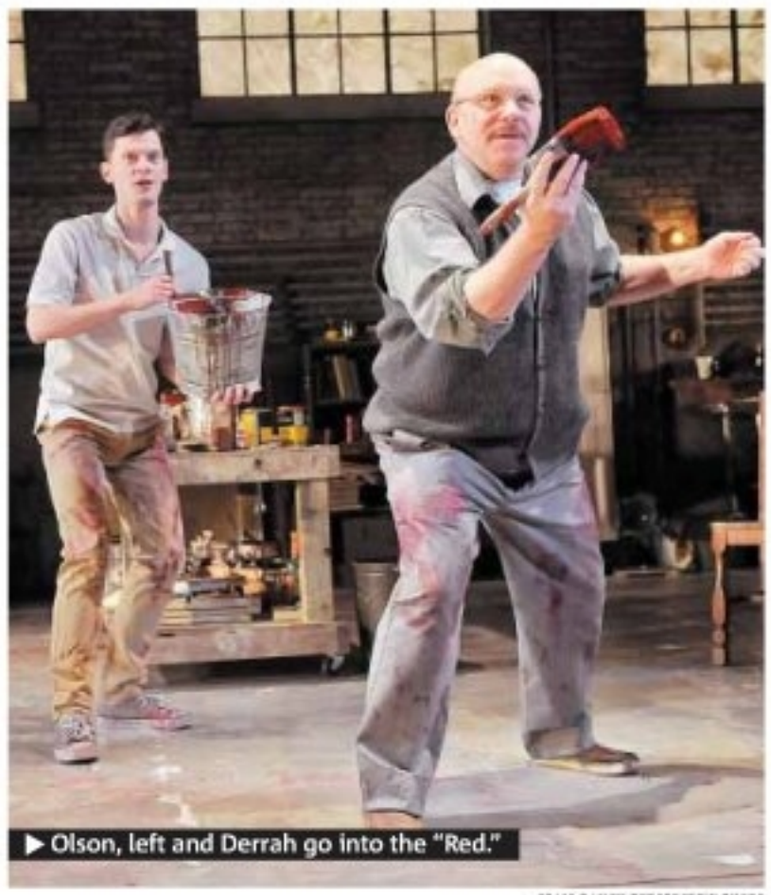

▶ Olson, left and Derrah go into the "Red."

CRAIG BAILEY/PERSPECTIVE PHOTO

If you go

'Red'
Through Feb. 4
Calderwood Pavilion at Boston Center for the Arts
527 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$55, 617-933-8600
www.speakeasystage.com

Plot: It's 1958 and abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko has been commissioned to create a series of murals for the new Four Seasons Restaurant in New York. He hires an assistant for the project and the duo engage in a two-year master class of sorts in which both learn valuable life lessons.

Director: David Gammons has said he refused to see any other productions of "Red" before putting up the production with SpeakEasy.

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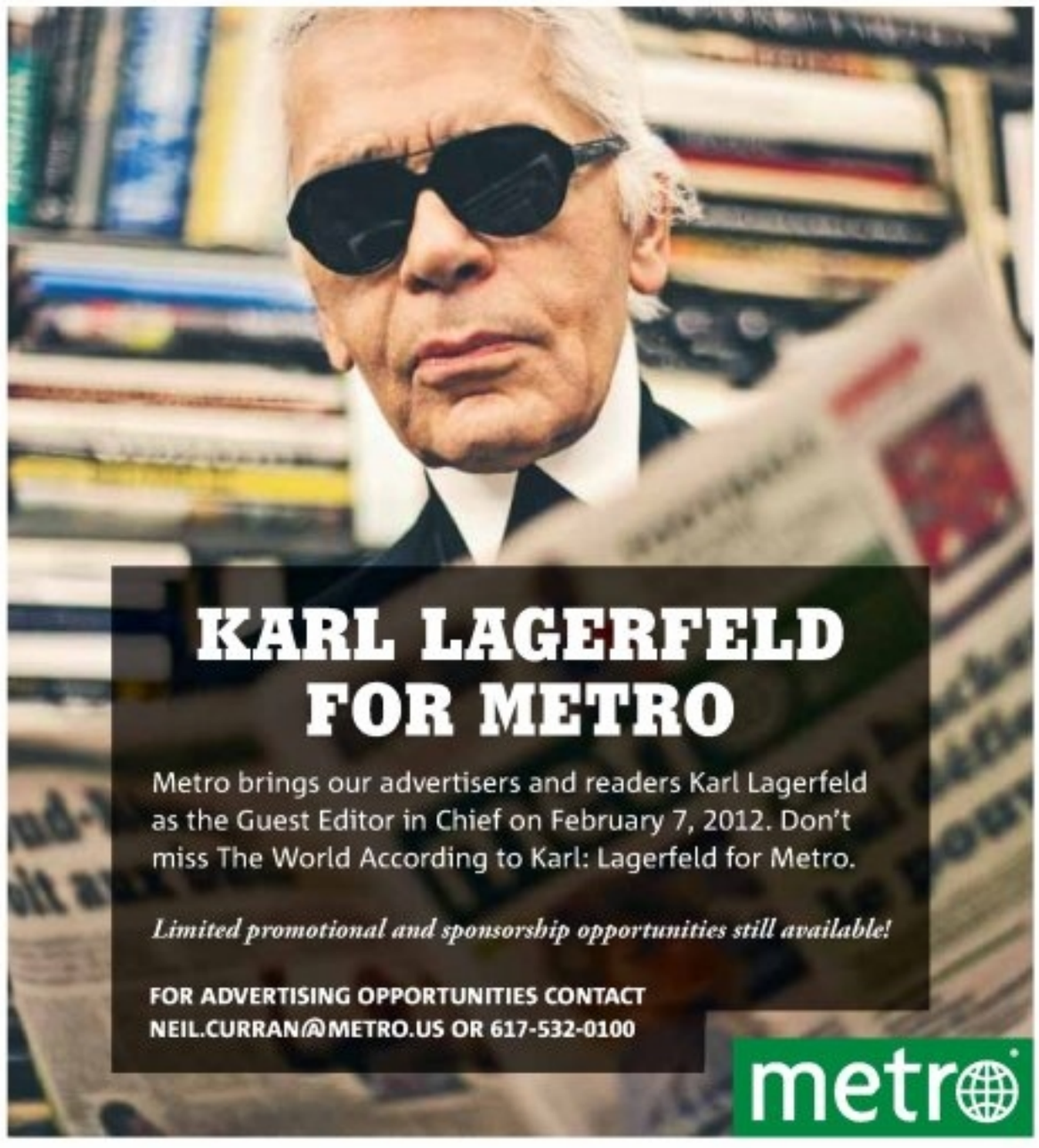

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PAUL MAROTTA

TAKE THE BITTER WITH THE SWEET

In her one-woman show about diabetes, Robbie McCauley pours some 'Sugar' on you

▶ After every show, McCauley, pictured here, will lead a "talk-back" session, in which members of the audience can ask questions about diabetes, or share their own experiences with it.

Unless you have it, you probably don't spend much time talking about diabetes. The disease isn't commonly discussed, in large part because its seriousness isn't acknowledged, says Robbie McCauley.

In her one-woman show, "Sugar," the writer, performer and Emerson professor changes that pattern as she recounts her lifelong struggle with it.

"After seeing this show, I'd like people to recognize how important this pervasive and dangerous condition is, and to hopefully be able recognize its symptoms in themselves, their family members and others," says McCauley, who has Type 1, or juvenile, diabetes.

If you go

'Sugar'
Friday through Jan. 29
Jackie Liebergott Black Box
559 Washington St., Boston
$25-$49, 617-824-8400
www.artsemerson.org

According to the American Diabetes Association, more than 27 percent of the 25.8 million Americans with diabetes haven't been diagnosed. African-Americans are disproportionately affected by it.

McCauley studied the history of sugar from slavery to colonialism while writing the play, and interviewed other diabetics. She wants to raise awareness by sharing her story, but at the same time provide an engaging theatrical experience.

"Through theater, hardship can be beautiful," she says, insisting that the play isn't a downer. "Despite everything, my life has been joyful."

There's a balance of comedy and tragedy in her story, she says: "Love stories are also about pain. Adventure stories are also about absurdity. ... Most people's lives have range to them, and that's why I do theater."

NORA DUNNE
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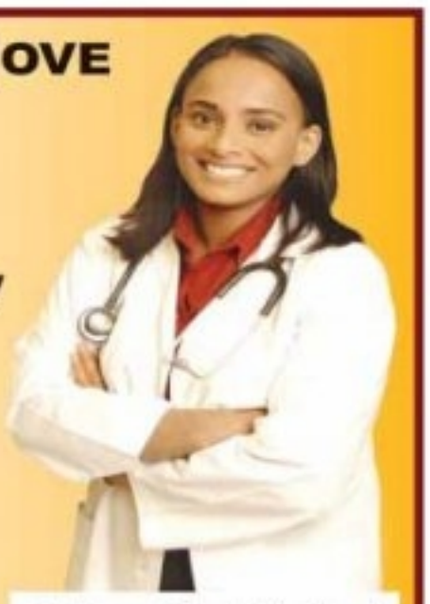

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Study smarter, not longer, this year

Making big, sweeping resolutions is not the most effective way to start the semester ◗ How to make the most of your study sessions in 2012

▶ Make sure your space is organized and peaceful for when you need to study.

THINKSTOCK

This week, college students across the country are struggling with the first stages of that age-old New Year's resolution: This year, I'm going to study for an impossible number of hours a day!

Lisa Jacobson is the founder of Inspirica, a company that has been teaching study habits for 25 years. Her advice as the semester kicks off: Don't try to drastically change with one quick turn of the calendar page.

When it comes to studying, why do New Year's resolutions fail?
They're too big. They say, "I'm going to read for three hours a night, every night." I really believe that, when it comes to college students, incremental changes are far more effective. It's trying to go just a step above where you were.

What's a good first step?
It's an easy one. Just take 15 minutes, sit down on your bed and quietly look at your dorm. Be honest with yourself. Is this a place where I can focus? Set yourself up. Make sure everything has a place. Ask yourself, "When is the most quiet, peaceful time in this space?"

So, are New Year's resolutions about studying a bad idea?
I think they can work if the goal is to get to a place where you're working smarter, not necessarily harder. Resolutions can be helpful because you're teaching yourself life skills.

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

Know yourself

Do some students respond better to background noise as opposed to a quiet room?

▶ Yes! Take notice of when you can concentrate, when you get distracted. Some people need lots of activity around them, so they need to find a busy time at a cafe and make sure they plop themselves down there for 30 minutes a day.

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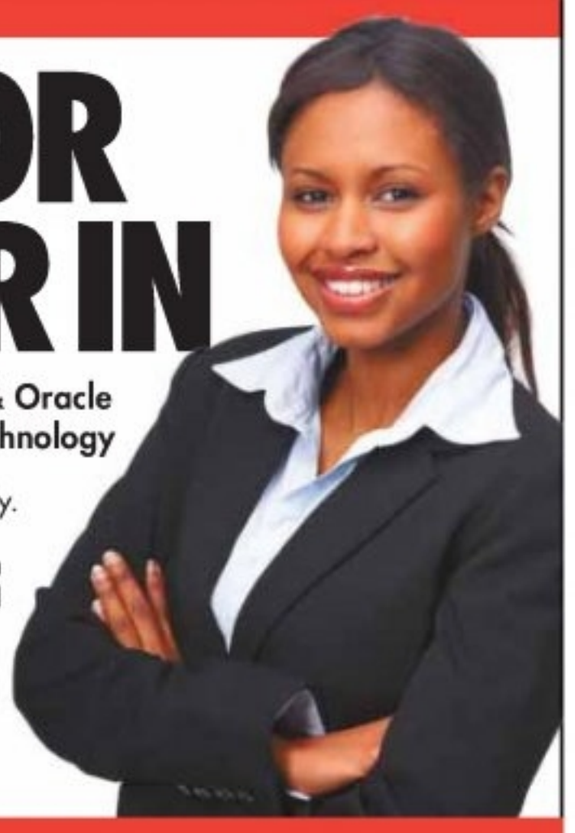

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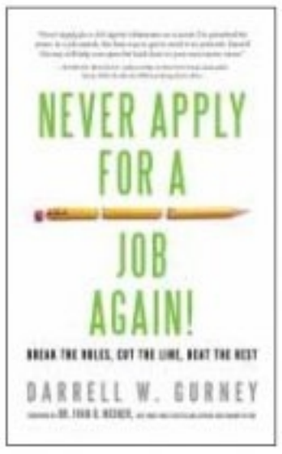
Spend more time forming relationships with people in your industry and less time writing cover letters.

After 15 years of executive recruiting, in 2000 Darrell W. Gurney reinvented himself as self-help author "The Career Guy." To use the parlance of the industry, it was a successful rebranding.

In his first book, "Headhunters Revealed," Gurney wanted to share the strategies of corporate placement agencies with a larger audience. "I feel all of us have one main job on the planet, which is to find what we're really turned on by," explains Gurney. "For me, I decided I wanted to teach people how to fish, rather than just give them a fish as a recruiter."



His latest effort, "Never Apply for a Job Again! Break the Rules, Cut the Line, Beat the Rest," hits stores this week. This time, The Career Guy is attempting to inspire his readers to end their social hibernation. And, above all, he stresses the importance of informal networking.

"The minute your outreach to people is that you need a job from them, you will get nowhere," he explains. "You want to pull people in because of your passion and enthusiasm, rather than [repel] them because of your desperate need."

Gurney points out that very few job opportunities happen the way we typically anticipate them. His advice: Stop spending so much time applying for jobs and start initiating conversations with professionals already around you. "Through the 'front door' you're competing with thousands of applicants, and you're completely locked into your résumé. You can't get beyond your past," Gurney says. "Through what I call 'the back door' — through relationships — it's the relationship that comes first, not your résumé."

Quoted

"You want to pull people in because of your passion and enthusiasm, rather than [repel] them because of your desperate need."
DARRELL W. GURNEY

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

More diversity means more ideas come to the table.

The case for cultivating a diverse workplace

It's well understood that a workplace of similarly minded drones makes for a static environment. Also, it is required by law that companies be equal-opportunity employers. But aside from the obvious and the legal, there are reasons that diversity — regardless of the form it takes — lends itself to building a stronger company.

Dr. James Smither, professor of management at La Salle University, defines diversity as "the differences among people in terms of their personalities, underlying values and training." It is these aspects that make a powerful team. "Deep diversity can be beneficial to the team as a whole because it creates a team with broader knowledge and perspectives that in turn can enhance the quality of problem solving and decision making," he says.

Hiring in 2012

A recent CareerBuilder survey suggests that employers are clued in to the benefits:

Of those surveyed, 29 percent said they would be focusing on hiring diverse employees in 2012. Forty-four percent reported that they would be hiring bilingual workers.

The benefits of a diverse work force aren't limited to the office. "The advantages of diverse workplaces extend beyond America's borders," says Peter Aranda, CEO at The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management. "The world is quickly becoming one giant multicultural marketplace in which U.S. companies vie for market share with competitors across the world. If American businesses want to stay in the game, they must become much more attuned to the nuances and needs of disparate cultures than they've been in the past."

JULIA WEST

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Hartstein on 'Toddlers & Tiaras'

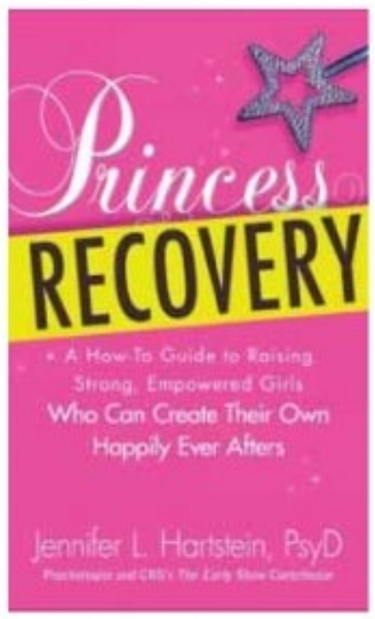
"What they show is these girls who are really praised and supported because they're cute and sweet," she says of the popular TLC program. "I don't care how many of these moms say, 'But they have a normal life outside!' This is where they're deriving so much meaning. They learn, 'As long as I can make you smile, I will get what I want from you.' What does that mean when you're 13? ... [The problem gets] bigger as kids get older."

Raising a daughter in the age of the princess

Your little lady is inundated with messages on what it means to be a girl in today's world How you can help her develop independence

There's a major epidemic taking over the minds of young girls everywhere: the princess syndrome. Jennifer Hartstein, PsyD, wrote "Princess Recovery: A How-To Guide to Raising Strong, Empowered Girls Who Can Create Their Own Happily Ever Afters" to help parents understand why today's daughters struggle with both entitlement and insecurity.

"Girls are bombarded consistently by messages — starting at very early ages — of what's supposed to be girly," Hartstein says. "They get pigeonholed into thinking that girly means pink and dolls and


Princess
RECOVERY
A How-To Guide to Raising Strong, Empowered Girls Who Can Create Their Own Happily Ever Afters
Jennifer L. Hartstein, PsyD

playing house. Those messages start at 2, 3 and 4 and then develop into concrete identities as kids get older. They may think that the only way to succeed in life is to be pretty, or to have the right clothes."

But there are ways to ensure your daughter grows up with a healthy mind-set. Hartstein recommends the following:

Know what's out there

"Parents need to know what messages are being given to their kids and they are giving to their kids. They might watch movies about the princess being saved by the prince ... little kids think that that's reality."

Let her choose her interests

"Encourage exploration in all ways. Don't discourage your daughter from wanting to play with what are typically boy toys. Toys are toys."

Have conversations

"Talk about what your kids are seeing. Start those conversations often and early."

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

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Letters

letters@metro.us

Enough with blame; let's just get better

RE: "WHERE TO PLACE BLAME?": Yes, let's all continue to bicker and argue and play these two-party blame games with each other like little children, because that has really helped this country progress in the last few decades. Seriously though, can't we all just sit down together, discuss our differences of opinions and compromise? It seems to me that's what a civilized society would do.
TRENT SANER, VIA E-MAIL

What this country needs is a second political party, not to mention a better-informed electorate that gets information from the controlled media. This country has been in trouble with both political parties in power, especially the "conservative" Republicans. Liberals posing as conservatives has been our lot for many decades, and the media has spent billions convincing us of these falsehoods. Perhaps there is one candidate running for president who is not part of this media created charade. His name is Dr. Ron Paul.
FRANK ST. GEORGE, VIA E-MAIL

Let's hear the truth about Ron Paul. Yes he wants to cut the FDA, the EPA and the OSHA. He also wants to end the overseas and drug wars, corporate welfare (subsidies and bailouts), the Federal Reserve bank and the futile Department of Education. These cuts will save us trillions, essentially bailing out the private sector by letting us keep our money, along with restoring the value of the dollar. In response to Cuddy's argument, the 14th Amendment guarantees the bill of rights applies to everybody, so concerns that somehow local state governments will become dictatorships are unfounded.
DREW HOUSER, VIA E-MAIL

"We should've ... set up a booth to urinate on [bin Laden]."

RE: "URINATION VID STIRS ANTI-US OUTRAGE ABROAD": There is such an uproar about the soldiers who urinated on the dead terrorists. Two things: First, they were dead. And second, they were terrorists! Maybe we should ask the people who lost loved ones on 9/11 what they think about it. I'm sure they aren't too upset. When we killed bin Laden, we should've brought his body to Ground Zero and set up a booth to urinate on him and charge $100 dollars per person. Our economy would've rebounded right away. Millions would have been generated, tourism would've increased tenfold.
ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

Obama must take some responsibility

LIBERALS. I voted for Obama — but come on liberals, he's been in office more than three years and has to take some of the blame for what has happened in this period: unemployment averaging nearly 9 percent, a budget deficit that has soared about $1 trillion, the continuation of the Bush tax cuts that he reviled during his election campaign, high teen pregnancy rates and the continued deterioration of the housing market. Are we better off than we were four years ago? Mostly, we are not.
RON FALCON, BOSTON

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

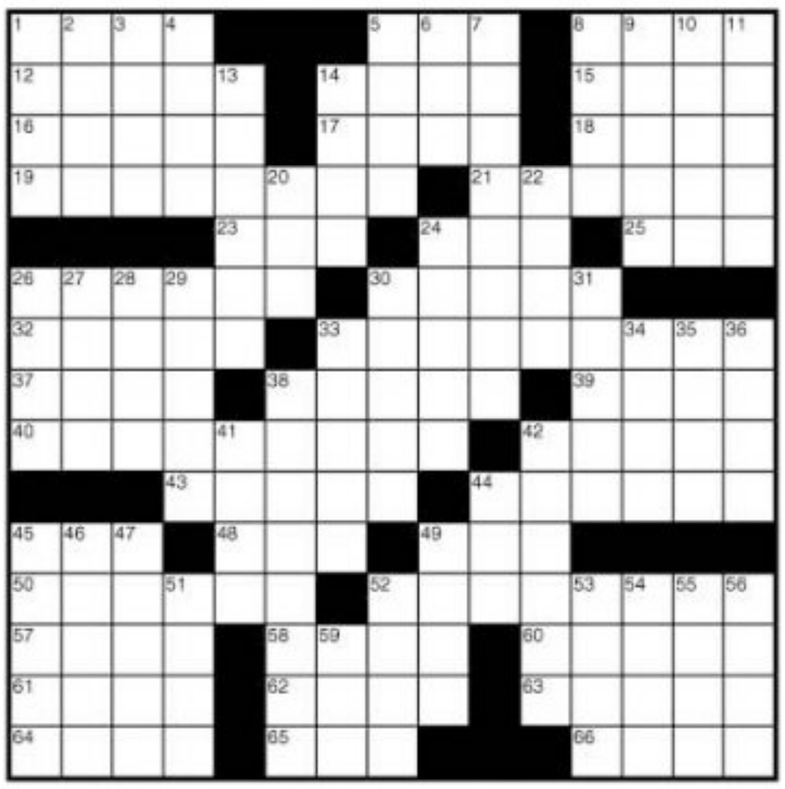
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19**. Because you'll innately understand certain things that aren't necessarily obvious to others, trust your own instincts over the general consensus.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** For some strange reason, your sense of timing will be better than ever and could prove to be an enormous asset. When you feel the moment is right, play your trump cards.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Information you receive from a trusted ally could contain some hidden ramifications that require a great deal of thoughtful analysis. You should carefully evaluate everything.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** You may have to deal with some challenging developments, but you won't have any trouble solving problems.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** It won't bother you one bit if an idea or suggestion that's offered by another is superior to anything you've thought of. In fact, you'll welcome clever thinking of every stripe.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Being materially motivated will substantially enhance your effectiveness and productivity. When you see a chance to make a dollar, you won't hesitate to do what you must to earn it.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Because you're a good listener, you're likely to pick up all kinds of bits of information that could collectively prove to be beneficial. Don't ever stop learning.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** A situation that has been hanging fire for far too long can be successfully brought to a conclusion. If you see a sudden opening, act on it with boldness and alacrity.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Upgrade that operation or endeavor in which you are presently involved the moment you get the chance to do so. Such an opportunity won't come again soon.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** You could be exceptionally fortunate in your commercial affairs if you're willing to act as soon as a likely opportunity manifests itself. Don't sit around wondering if it'll work — just do it.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Good news that will substantially elevate your hopes and wishes is on its way, at long last. It will enable you do something you've thought about for a quite a while.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** You should closely listen to the advice of others about how to make or save money — but then follow whatever course makes the most sense to you. Heed your own intuition.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Singles
5 Tire pressure meas.
8 "Make" or "break"
12 Loved to excess
14 Kitten's toy
15 Kyrgyzstan mountain range
16 Arrange gracefully
17 Roberts or Clapton
18 New day, briefly
19 Dried up sea(2 wds.)
21 Drank like Rover
23 Fritz, to himself
24 Mammal's need
25 Um cousins
26 Clobbered
30 "__ vincit amor"
32 Reference book
33 Swindler
37 Wild tusker
38 Lutz alternatives
39 Elegant coiffure
40 Tail or fin
42 Church instrument
43 Wherewithal
44 Cooks veggies
45 Super Bowl org.
48 Technique
49 Common sense
50 Big name in soul
52 Moonstruck
57 Prima donna
58 Shapeless mass
60 "Bananas" name
61 Tabloid tidbit
62 Some August people
63 Familiar saying
64 Walk-on, maybe
65 Hearing aid?
66 Toboggan

Down
1 Likelihood
2 Ibsen woman
3 And others (abbr.)
4 Equinox mo.
5 Hair division
6 Delhi honorific
7 Ramps
8 Mae West persona
9 Flee to the J.P.
10 Less available
11 Tough spots
13 Stands up to
14 "She Loves You" refrain
20 Arith. term
22 Border st.
24 Mosey along
26 Rum cake
27 Surmounting
28 Give a high-five
29 Sheik's bevy
30 Rolex rival
31 Blue color
33 Praise to the skies
34 Links org.
35 Red-waxed cheese
36 Guidry and Howard
38 Engaging
41 Webster or Beery
42 Canadian capital
44 Knight's address
45 Low point
46 Corn-chip name
47 Tool with a bubble
49 Spider traps
51 Blah
52 Easy way out
53 Shows approval
54 Hockey score
55 Perimeter
56 Did batik
59 Meadow



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	6		7		1		9	
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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	9		7			5		
2	5	8		6				
	1		2				4	
	3	7	8					9
	6						8	
8					9	7	5	
	8				3		1	
				4		6	9	8
		9			8		3	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

C	H	E	E	R		S	A	H	I	B		D	R	S
D	A	L	A	I		A	G	O	R	A		I	O	N
S	T	I	R	S		S	E	G	A	L		C	U	E
			K	I	S	S			S	I	E	G	E	
T	E	S	T	I	L	Y		B	L	A	N	D	E	R
E	N	T	R	E	E		C	L	A	M	S			
A	D	A	I	R		Q	U	I	P	S	T	E	R	
L	O	S			B	U	R	G	S			J	E	T
	W	H	I	P	L	A	S	H		E	L	E	N	A
			B	R	O	K	E		G	R	A	C	E	D
R	A	D	I	A	T	E		H	E	R	B	T	E	A
E	X	I	S	T			P	U	M	A				
P	I	E		T	R	U	E	R		T	O	N	I	C
R	O	T		L	A	K	E	R		U	H	U	R	A
O	M	S		E	M	E	R	Y		M	O	T	E	L

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.
You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Sun, sea and souks

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▶ Visit the tranquil fishing port of Essaouria to discover a gentler Morocco. For more information, check out www.visitmorocco.com.

With Essaouria, visitors to Morocco get a chilled-out alternative to the bustle of Marrakesh This coastal town has been a magnet for bohemian tourists who are attracted by its relaxed vibe and cultural buzz

In the tranquil fishing port of Essaouria, with its crescent-shaped bay and honey-colored stone battlements, you can escape the crowds of Marrakesh and discover a gentler Morocco.

This bohemian enclave is the answer to that vacation holiday dilemma — lounge on an exotic beach or take a cultural city break? Essaouira won't make you choose.

Amble down its maze of narrow streets, with shadowy doorways and blue shutters clattering in the wind, and you feel like you are trespassing on a film set. The thick ramparts with their cannons pointing out to sea hint at centuries-ago strife in this forgotten bastion, left behind by the Portuguese.

Essaouira is a three-hour drive from Marrakesh and popular with day-trippers, but it is ideal for a longer stay. It is one of the world's most popular spots for windsurfing and kite boarding, and it's possible to rent a bike and explore the sand dunes.

EMMA E. FORREST

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Traveler's tips

Stay: Villa Maroc
Villa Maroc was Essaouira's first boutique hotel and has a luxury edge on the others. Boasting 21 bedrooms, seven lounges and a roof terrace overlooking the ocean, it somehow still manages to retain a homey feel.
www.villa-maroc.com

Do: Any number of festivals
Essaouira plays host to a number of festivals, the most popular of which is the Gnaoua and World Music Festival in June which celebrates fusion with collaborations between jazz, pop, rock and traditional — plus the hypnotic lute-fuelled sounds of Gnaoua. Most festivals are free.
www.festival-gnaoua.net

▶ Music in Morocco

Eat: Street stalls
Follow the squawks of the seagulls down to the sea walls and eat freshly caught crab or sardines. Watch it being grilled before you as the blue fishing boats bring in their gleaming catches. Alternatively, stop off at one of the many food stalls and try a chicken and almond or pigeon pastilla.

Spend time doing nothing

You can easily while away an afternoon strolling down the glistening beach, negotiating your way past the constant offers of hashish and space cakes from street hustlers. If you want to escape a nose full of fish, wander to Essaouira's central square, the picturesque Place Moulay Hassan where you can listen to the muezzin's call. While the sun sets, enjoy an African coffee and pastry slathered in argan honey, a regional delicacy.

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8-Day Caribbean $599* pp — Ocean View $719* pp, Balcony $799* pp
7-Day Alaska $629* pp — Ocean View $749* pp, Balcony $919* pp
12-Day Europe $949* pp — Ocean View $1349* pp, Balcony $1479* pp

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7-Day Europe $599* pp — Ocean View $899* pp, Balcony $1199* pp
7-Day Alaska $644* pp — Ocean View $739* pp, Balcony $1379* pp
10-Day Caribbean $889* pp — Ocean View $1104* pp, Balcony $1449* pp

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A read on Ravens flock

Baltimore defense has been able to frustrate Brady in the past QB Flacco must be better if Ravens expect to get to Super Bowl XLVI

GETTY IMAGES

▶ If there's one defense that can silence the Patriots high-octane offense, it's Ed Reed, Ray Lewis (right) and the stingy Ravens.

We're still five days away from the AFC championship game, but it's never too early to get a good read on your opponent:

Average Joe

A look at the last three times Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco has faced the Patriots:

1. The pick of the litter for Jumbo Joe, Flacco put up 285 passing yards with a pair of TD passes but the Ravens still fell to the Pats, 23-20, on Oct. 17, 2010.
2. Flacco was atrocious in the Ravens wild-card win at Gillette on Jan. 10, 2010. He had a QB rating of 10.0 as he completed 4-of-10 passes for 34 yards and an interception.
3. Flacco had a 78.7 QB rating on Oct. 4, 2009, as the Ravens came up short in a 27-21 loss to the Patriots. The Ravens QB passed for 264 yards with an interception and two touchdowns.

WRITE TO METRO:
LETTERS@METRO.US

Is Flacco Tebow Part II?
OK, maybe that's a little harsh, but the point is that Joe Flacco is by no means a top quarterback in the league. The Patriots secondary has been pretty lucky this postseason, having faced Tim Tebow and now Flacco. In fact, Flacco's quarterback rating of 80.9 was good for just 18th in the NFL this season. And Flacco threw for just 6.66 yards per pass attempt, placing him 24th in the NFL. He hasn't thrown for more than 227 yards since Week 11. The Ravens haven't been winning because of Flacco, in fact, you could say to an extent that they've won in spite of him.

A+ for 'D'
The Ravens defense is for real, and is certainly one that could easily give the Patriots high-powered offense trouble. Out of the remaining four teams in the postseason, the Ravens are tops ... with the Patriots last. Comparing the two is enough to make you cringe. We won't go there today, but just know that the Ravens give up an average of just 196.3 passing yards per game. One good reason? Free safety Ed Reed — a player Bill Belichick once said is the best to ever play the position. Talk about respect.

Battle-tested
When you talk about a "tough" team, the Ravens have to be at or near the top of the list. Their résumé this season is better than the Patriots — two wins each against the Steelers and Bengals in the regular season, two wins (one in the postseason) against the Texans, and a win against the 49ers. They do it with defense and they do it in the run game with Ray Rice. Ground and pound — on both sides of the ball — is the key to success for Baltimore. The Pats will need to out-tough them.

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

Quoted

"After that '07 year, I thought we'd be going to the Super Bowl just about every year ... That's just not the way it works. It's hard to get to a position like this."
PATRIOTS WR WES WELKER

Quoted

"Without totally going off the wall, it is embarrassing to the game [penalty flags]. Brady is good enough to make his own plays, let him make the play."
RAVENS LB RAY LEWIS IN 2009

3

In the news

You buggin'
Former Chiefs head coach Todd Haley was convinced team management had bugged rooms and phones to monitor employees' conversations, according to The Kansas City Star. "The level of paranoia was probably the highest I had ever seen it anywhere ... if you make the wrong step, you might not be able to pay your mortgage," said one former high-ranking staff member.

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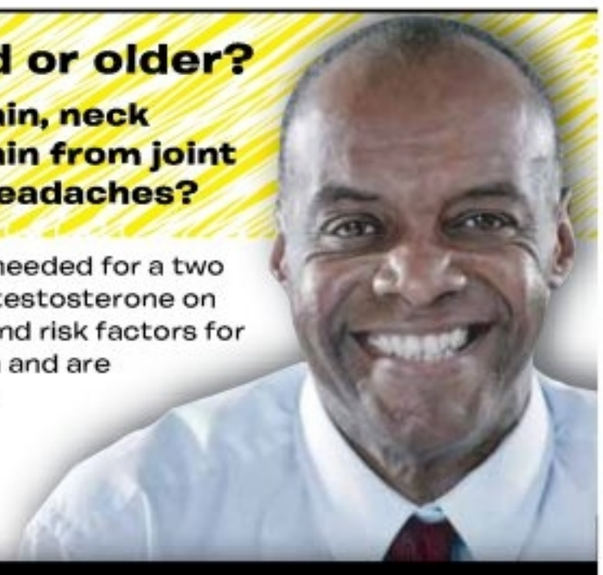
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B's in midst of a slump according to some

▶ Bruins captain Zdeno Chara and head coach Claude Julien believe the team is in a funk.

◗ Head coach critical of passing, willingness of players to take puck to the net ◗ Team was due for dry spell after unprecedented string of wins

Unlike Vancouver two weeks ago, tonight's 2011 postseason rematch between the Bruins and Lightning in Tampa (7:30, NESN) is totally lacking in drama. The Lightning, who extended the Bruins to seven games in last spring's Eastern Conference Finals, are dead last in the East this season.

Pointwise, the Bruins are at the other end of the spectrum. But listening to head coach Claude Julien speak Monday morning, you would hardly know it.

"Basically our whole game has slipped," Julien said. "We're not to the point of being a bad team, but it's slipped to us being a very mediocre team right now. We need to bring it back to the level that's expected of our group."

The Bruins began a stretch of five games in seven days against the Panthers on Monday night in Sunrise, Fla., with tonight's game against the Lightning the only one not against a top-eight team in the Eastern Conference.

Four of the five games are on the road, and the lone home game comes Saturday against the Rangers, the top seed in the East. And Saturdays have not been pretty for the Bruins lately, having dropped three straight Saturday games after their late collapse against the Hurricanes this past weekend.

That loss dropped the Bruins to 4-3 over their past seven games heading into Monday night. And that led to Julien's tough love approach Monday.

"I don't know what kind of game we can expect," Julien said.

Missing sparkplug Brad Marchand for the fourth straight game Monday because of his suspension that ends tonight, the Bruins have lacked finish and focus.

"We're falling short in certain areas," defenseman Zdeno Chara said. "We lost more battles than in previous games, and need to pay more attention to details."

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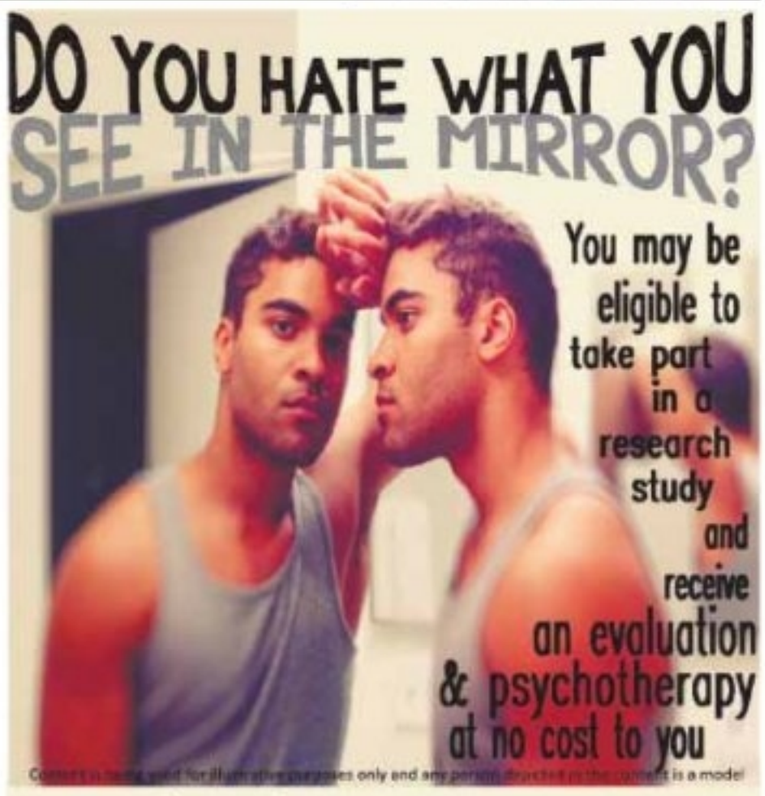
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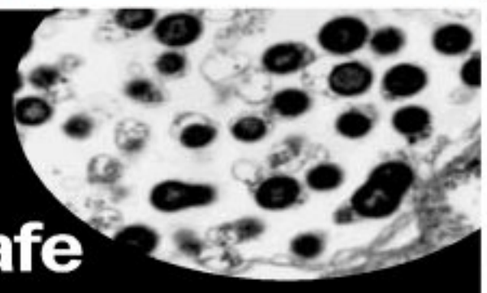

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